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To the Editors of the Annals and Magazine of Natural History.

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GENTLEMEN,

MR. MACKAY has adopted the natural arrangement in preference to the Linnæan, and in doing this has probably also adopted that system preferred by the Dublin professor. This may have its use, but it seems a strange thing that no two botanists seem to be satisfied with the same arrangement, which is an inconvenience to those who wish to compare the Floras of different countries. It fortunately happens, however, that the variations in the plants contained, occur chiefly in those orders which contain few genera, for it is with respect to genera that the difference is most troublesome. I shall now proceed to offer some remarks upon the work.

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Mr. Mackay has 8 genera and 24 species of this order. Of these the old botanists had 6 genera and 14 species; Mr. Templeton, 6 genera and 18 species. Those in which Mr. Templeton was deficient, were *Clematis vitalba* and *Helleborus viridis*, both questionable; *Thalictrum alpinum*, *Ranunculus hirsutus* and *parviflorus*, and *arvensis*, which last he regarded as doubtful. At the end I will give a comparative table of the genera and species in each natural order.

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p. 148. *Senecio*. Mr. T. has "*lividus*, E. B. 2515, found about lakes and bogs in the neighbourhood of Ballinahinch, Aug. 14, 1810." As he was evidently familiar with *Sylvaticus*, he could not have confounded them, if, as Sir W. Hooker thinks, the plant in E. B. was not distinct from it.

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Comparative Summary of the Plants noticed by Botanists before 1760; of those noticed by Mr. Templeton and his coadjutors before 1804; and of those noticed by Mr. Mackay in his 'Flora Hibernica,' according to the Natural Orders adopted by him.

ORDERS.	O. B.		T.		M.	
	G.	Sp.	G.	Sp.	G.	Sp.
1. Ranunculaceæ ..	6	14	6	18	8	24
2. Berberideæ	0	0	0	0	1	1
3. Nymphæaceæ ..	2	2	2	2	2	2
4. Papaveraceæ....	3	5	4	7	4	8
5. Fumariaceæ	2	2	2	3	2	4
6. Cruciferae	20	37	20	33	23	49
7. Violaceæ	1	4	1	6	1	8
8. Cistineæ	1	1	0	0	1	1
9. Droseraceæ	1	3	1	3	1	3
10. Polygalæ.....	1	1	1	1	1	1
11. Malvaceæ.....	2	4	2	4	3	5
12. Hypericineæ....	1	7	1	8	1	9
13. Caryophylleæ ..	10	15	10	28	11	37
14. Linææ	2	4	2	4	2	5
15. Tiliaceæ	1	1	1	1	1	2
16. Acerineæ	1	2	1	1	1	2
17. Geraniaceæ	2	7	2	11	2	13
18. Oxalideæ	1	1	1	1	1	1
19. Portulacæ	0	0	1	1	1	1
20. Crassulaceæ	3	6	4	8	4	10
21. Saxifrageæ	3	6	4	10	4	18
22. Salicariæ	2	2	2	2	2	4
23. Rhamneæ	1	1	1	2	1	2
24. Illicineæ.....	1	1	1	1	1	1
25. Celestrineæ	1	1	1	1	1	1
26. Leguminosæ....	12	22	13	31	15	41
27. Rosaceæ	11	23	13	33	13	50
28. Pomaceæ	2	4	2	4	2	5
29. Grossulaceæ....	0	0	1	3	1	3
30. Onagrariæ	1	4	1	6	1	6
31. Circeæaceæ.....	1	1	1	2	1	2
32. Halorageæ	0	0	2	2	2	3
33. Umbelliferæ	25	31	28	38	29	44
34. Stellatæ	4	8	4	10	4	13

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9. Droseraceæ	1	3	1	3	1	3
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22. Salicariæ	2	2	2	2	2	4
23. Rhamneæ	1	1	1	2	1	2
24. Illicineæ.....	1	1	1	1	1	1
25. Celestrineæ	1	1	1	1	1	1
26. Leguminosæ....	12	22	13	31	15	41
27. Rosaceæ	11	23	13	33	13	50
28. Pomaceæ	2	4	2	4	2	5
29. Grossulaceæ....	0	0	1	3	1	3
30. Onagrariæ	1	4	1	6	1	6
31. Circeæaceæ.....	1	1	1	2	1	2
32. Halorageæ	0	0	2	2	2	3
33. Umbelliferæ	25	31	28	38	29	44
34. Stellatæ	4	8	4	10	4	13

the wish of others, and I trust have said nothing which can be offensive to any; but I shall be particularly happy if I can contribute in the least degree to the due estimation of a departed friend, who is, and ought to be, the pride of the North of Ireland, the late JOHN TEMPLETON, to whom Belfast, in particular, owes much of that high character which she has attained amongst the cultivators of Natural History in all its branches.

Comparative Summary of the Plants noticed by Botanists before 1760; of those noticed by Mr. Templeton and his coadjutors before 1804; and of those noticed by Mr. Mackay in his 'Flora Hibernica,' according to the Natural Orders adopted by him.

ORDERS.	O. B.		T.		M.	
	G.	Sp.	G.	Sp.	G.	Sp.
1. Ranunculaceæ ..	6	14	6	18	8	24
2. Berberideæ	0	0	0	0	1	1
3. Nymphæaceæ ..	2	2	2	2	2	2
4. Papaveraceæ....	3	5	4	7	4	8
5. Fumariaceæ	2	2	2	3	2	4
6. Cruciferae	20	37	20	33	23	49
7. Violaceæ	1	4	1	6	1	8
8. Cistineæ	1	1	0	0	1	1
9. Droseraceæ	1	3	1	3	1	3
10. Polygalæ.....	1	1	1	1	1	1
11. Malvaceæ.....	2	4	2	4	3	5
12. Hypericineæ....	1	7	1	8	1	9
13. Caryophylleæ ..	10	15	10	28	11	37
14. Linææ	2	4	2	4	2	5
15. Tiliaceæ	1	1	1	1	1	2
16. Acerineæ	1	2	1	1	1	2
17. Geraniaceæ	2	7	2	11	2	13
18. Oxalideæ	1	1	1	1	1	1
19. Portulacæ	0	0	1	1	1	1
20. Crassulaceæ	3	6	4	8	4	10
21. Saxifrageæ	3	6	4	10	4	18
22. Salicariæ	2	2	2	2	2	4
23. Rhamneæ	1	1	1	2	1	2
24. Illicineæ.....	1	1	1	1	1	1
25. Celestrineæ	1	1	1	1	1	1
26. Leguminosæ....	12	22	13	31	15	41
27. Rosaceæ	11	23	13	33	13	50
28. Pomaceæ	2	4	2	4	2	5
29. Grossulaceæ....	0	0	1	3	1	3
30. Onagrariæ	1	4	1	6	1	6
31. Circeæaceæ.....	1	1	1	2	1	2
32. Halorageæ	0	0	2	2	2	3
33. Umbelliferæ	25	31	28	38	29	44
34. Stellatæ	4	8	4	10	4	13

ORDERS.	O. B.		T.		M.	
	G.	Sp.	G.	Sp.	G.	Sp.
35. Caprifoliaceæ ..	5	6	5	6	5	6
36. Vacciniæ.....	1	2	1	3	1	3
37. Campanulaceæ .	1	1	1	3	1	4
38. Lobeliaceæ	2	2	2	2	2	2
39. Valerianææ	2	2	2	4	2	4
40. Dipsacææ	3	3	3	3	3	3
41. Compositæ	36	56	36	62	40	87
42. Boraginææ	8	11	8	14	8	16
43. Convolvulaceæ ..	2	3	2	4	2	4
44. Plantaginææ	1	4	2	5	2	6
45. Polemoniaceæ ..	1	1	1	1	1	1
46. Plumbaginææ ..	1	2	1	2	1	3
47. Oleinææ	2	2	2	2	2	2
48. Ericææ	5	6	4	5	5	9
49. Pyrolaceæ.....	1	1	1	3	2	5
50. Apocynææ.....	1	1	0	0	1	2
51. Gentianææ	4	5	5	7	6	11
52. Solanææ	5	6	3	3	5	7
53. Primulaceæ	5	10	7	13	7	13
54. Lentibulariææ....	1	1	2	5	2	6
55. Scrophularinææ..	9	21	9	23	10	30
56. Orobanchææ	2	2	2	3	2	4
57. Melampyraceæ ..	1	1	1	2	1	2
58. Verbenaceæ	1	1	1	1	1	1
59. Labiataæ	19	28	17	31	20	43
60. Polygonææ	2	11	3	17	3	20
61. Chenopodeæ	5	12	5	17	5	19
62. Schlerantheæ ..	0	0	1	1	1	1
63. Urticææ.....	3	4	3	4	3	5
64. Resedaceæ	1	1	1	3	1	3
65. Euphorbiaceæ ..	2	6	2	7	2	9
66. Empetreaæ.....	1	1	1	1	1	1
67. Callitrichinææ ..	0	0	1	2	1	2
68. Ceratophylleæ ..	0	0	1	2	1	2
69. Ulmaceæ	1	1	1	1	1	4
70. Amentaceæ	7	13	6	24	9	43
71. Myricææ	1	1	1	1	1	1
72. Coniferæ	3	3	3	3	3	3
73. Aroideæ.....	1	1	1	1	1	1
74. Typhaceæ	2	2	2	5	2	5
75. Fluviales	1	4	4	13	4	15
76. Pistiaceæ	1	1	1	3	1	4
77. Juncaginææ	0	0	1	2	1	2
78. Alismaceæ.....	1	2	2	4	2	4
79. Hydrocharideæ..	0	0	2	2	2	2
80. Irideæ	1	2	1	2	2	3
81. Orchideæ	4	8	7	16	8	22
82. Melanthaceæ....	0	0	1	1	1	1
83. Amaryllideæ	1	1	1	2	2	4

ORDERS.	O. B.		T.		M.	
	G.	Sp.	G.	Sp.	G.	Sp.
35. Caprifoliaceæ ..	5	6	5	6	5	6
36. Vacciniæ.....	1	2	1	3	1	3
37. Campanulaceæ .	1	1	1	3	1	4
38. Lobeliaceæ	2	2	2	2	2	2
39. Valerianææ	2	2	2	4	2	4
40. Dipsacææ	3	3	3	3	3	3
41. Compositæ	36	56	36	62	40	87
42. Boraginææ	8	11	8	14	8	16
43. Convolvulaceæ ..	2	3	2	4	2	4
44. Plantaginææ	1	4	2	5	2	6
45. Polemoniaceæ ..	1	1	1	1	1	1
46. Plumbaginææ ..	1	2	1	2	1	3
47. Oleinææ	2	2	2	2	2	2
48. Ericææ	5	6	4	5	5	9
49. Pyrolaceæ.....	1	1	1	3	2	5
50. Apocynææ.....	1	1	0	0	1	2
51. Gentianææ	4	5	5	7	6	11
52. Solanææ	5	6	3	3	5	7
53. Primulaceæ	5	10	7	13	7	13
54. Lentibulariææ....	1	1	2	5	2	6
55. Scrophularinææ..	9	21	9	23	10	30
56. Orobanchææ	2	2	2	3	2	4
57. Melampyraceæ ..	1	1	1	2	1	2
58. Verbenaceæ	1	1	1	1	1	1
59. Labiataæ	19	28	17	31	20	43
60. Polygonææ	2	11	3	17	3	20
61. Chenopodeæ	5	12	5	17	5	19
62. Schlerantheæ ..	0	0	1	1	1	1
63. Urticææ.....	3	4	3	4	3	5
64. Resedaceæ	1	1	1	3	1	3
65. Euphorbiaceæ ..	2	6	2	7	2	9
66. Empetreaæ.....	1	1	1	1	1	1
67. Callitrichinææ ..	0	0	1	2	1	2
68. Ceratophylleæ ..	0	0	1	2	1	2
69. Ulmaceæ	1	1	1	1	1	4
70. Amentaceæ	7	13	6	24	9	43
71. Myricææ	1	1	1	1	1	1
72. Coniferæ	3	3	3	3	3	3
73. Aroideæ.....	1	1	1	1	1	1
74. Typhaceæ	2	2	2	5	2	5
75. Fluviales	1	4	4	13	4	15
76. Pistiaceæ	1	1	1	3	1	4
77. Juncaginææ	0	0	1	2	1	2
78. Alismaceæ.....	1	2	2	4	2	4
79. Hydrocharideæ ..	0	0	2	2	2	2
80. Irideæ	1	2	1	2	2	3
81. Orchideæ	4	8	7	16	8	22
82. Melanthaceæ....	0	0	1	1	1	1
83. Amaryllideæ	1	1	1	2	2	4

ORDERS.	O. B.		T.		M.	
	G.	Sp.	G.	Sp.	G.	Sp.
35. Caprifoliaceæ ..	5	6	5	6	5	6
36. Vacciniæ.....	1	2	1	3	1	3
37. Campanulaceæ .	1	1	1	3	1	4
38. Lobeliaceæ	2	2	2	2	2	2
39. Valerianææ	2	2	2	4	2	4
40. Dipsacææ	3	3	3	3	3	3
41. Compositæ	36	56	36	62	40	87
42. Boraginææ	8	11	8	14	8	16
43. Convolvulaceæ ..	2	3	2	4	2	4
44. Plantaginææ	1	4	2	5	2	6
45. Polemoniaceæ ..	1	1	1	1	1	1
46. Plumbaginææ ..	1	2	1	2	1	3
47. Oleinææ	2	2	2	2	2	2
48. Ericææ	5	6	4	5	5	9
49. Pyrolaceæ.....	1	1	1	3	2	5
50. Apocynææ.....	1	1	0	0	1	2
51. Gentianææ	4	5	5	7	6	11
52. Solanææ	5	6	3	3	5	7
53. Primulaceæ	5	10	7	13	7	13
54. Lentibulariææ....	1	1	2	5	2	6
55. Scrophularinææ..	9	21	9	23	10	30
56. Orobanchææ	2	2	2	3	2	4
57. Melampyraceæ ..	1	1	1	2	1	2
58. Verbenaceæ	1	1	1	1	1	1
59. Labiataæ	19	28	17	31	20	43
60. Polygonææ	2	11	3	17	3	20
61. Chenopodeæ	5	12	5	17	5	19
62. Schlerantheæ ..	0	0	1	1	1	1
63. Urticææ.....	3	4	3	4	3	5
64. Resedaceæ	1	1	1	3	1	3
65. Euphorbiaceæ ..	2	6	2	7	2	9
66. Empetreaæ.....	1	1	1	1	1	1
67. Callitrichinææ ..	0	0	1	2	1	2
68. Ceratophylleæ ..	0	0	1	2	1	2
69. Ulmaceæ	1	1	1	1	1	4
70. Amentaceæ	7	13	6	24	9	43
71. Myricææ	1	1	1	1	1	1
72. Coniferæ	3	3	3	3	3	3
73. Aroideæ.....	1	1	1	1	1	1
74. Typhaceæ	2	2	2	5	2	5
75. Fluviales	1	4	4	13	4	15
76. Pistiaceæ	1	1	1	3	1	4
77. Juncaginææ	0	0	1	2	1	2
78. Alismaceæ.....	1	2	2	4	2	4
79. Hydrocharideæ..	0	0	2	2	2	2
80. Irideæ	1	2	1	2	2	3
81. Orchideæ	4	8	7	16	8	22
82. Melanthaceæ....	0	0	1	1	1	1
83. Amaryllideæ	1	1	1	2	2	4

ORDERS.	O. B.		T.		M.	
	G.	Sp.	G.	Sp.	G.	Sp.
84. Asphodeleæ	3	5	3	4	3	6
85. Smilacææ	2	2	0	0	2	2
86. Butomeæ	1	1	1	1	1	1
87. Restiaceæ	0	0	0	0	1	1
88. Junceæ	2	5	3	14	3	16
89. Gramineæ	9	10	27	73	30	80
90. Cyperaceæ	3	5	8	56	8	66
91. Filices	13	18	13	25	15	32
92. Lycopodiaceæ . . .	1	2	1	4	1	4
93. Marsiliatææ	0	0	1	1	2	2
94. Equisetaceæ	1	4	1	6	1	8
95. Characeæ	1	2	1	5	1	7

In the preceding list Mr. Mackay's Flora is taken as the basis, and no plant is admitted in any order which he has not inserted; of course additions might have been made of plants recorded as found by the older botanists; and while a very few are omitted in Mr. M.'s work, which Mr. T. considered as natives, many were passed over by him which he did not recognise as native, and did not insert in his list. Again, a few were omitted which he had entered on the authority of *Plantæ Rariores*, or other authorities, but had not verified. On the other hand, a few may have been reckoned which he did not find till after 1804; but, on the whole, I believe the first list contains a fair statement of what was known of the botany of Ireland previous to 1780, including the discoveries of Smith and others; the second, a fair statement of what was known to Mr. Templeton and his correspondents previous to 1804, when Mr. Mackay came to Ireland; and the third, the number of plants in each natural order contained in Mr. Mackay's work, without including a few additions that have been since made*. It will appear that the old botanists were peculiarly deficient in water-plants, and in the grass, and grass-like tribes, whilst the late discrimination, and consequent increase of species, must tend to swell the apparent difference. Many plants may still be added, but the fact that the Flora of Ireland was not so neglected as some imagined, will, I trust, be made evident by the statements in the preceding paper and lists.

I have now, gentlemen, with best wishes for the success of your useful publication, to subscribe myself your obedient servant,

THOMAS D. HINCKS.

Belfast, May 6, 1840.

Cor. Sec. Belfast Botanical Society.

* The list of course includes all discovered after 1804, which are contained in Mr. M.'s work, whether discovered by Mr. M. himself, Mr. Templeton, Mr. Drummond of Cork, Mr. Moore, or others to whom Mr. M. has assigned them.

ORDERS.	O. B.		T.		M.	
	G.	Sp.	G.	Sp.	G.	Sp.
84. Asphodeleæ	3	5	3	4	3	6
85. Smilacææ	2	2	0	0	2	2
86. Butomeæ	1	1	1	1	1	1
87. Restiaceæ	0	0	0	0	1	1
88. Junceæ	2	5	3	14	3	16
89. Gramineæ	9	10	27	73	30	80
90. Cyperaceæ	3	5	8	56	8	66
91. Filices	13	18	13	25	15	32
92. Lycopodiaceæ	1	2	1	4	1	4
93. Marsiliatææ	0	0	1	1	2	2
94. Equisetaceæ	1	4	1	6	1	8
95. Characeæ	1	2	1	5	1	7

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ORDERS.	O. B.		T.		M.	
	G.	Sp.	G.	Sp.	G.	Sp.
84. Asphodeleæ	3	5	3	4	3	6
85. Smilacææ	2	2	0	0	2	2
86. Butomeæ	1	1	1	1	1	1
87. Restiaceæ	0	0	0	0	1	1
88. Junceæ	2	5	3	14	3	16
89. Gramineæ	9	10	27	73	30	80
90. Cyperaceæ	3	5	8	56	8	66
91. Filices	13	18	13	25	15	32
92. Lycopodiaceæ	1	2	1	4	1	4
93. Marsiliatææ	0	0	1	1	2	2
94. Equisetaceæ	1	4	1	6	1	8
95. Characeæ	1	2	1	5	1	7

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